(b) and (c). The Department of Supply is the nodal department for the purchase and inspection of stores for Central Government Departments and also for State Governments, PSUs, etc., for which DGS & D finalises Rate Contracts. All Rate Contracts of turnover of above Rs. 5 Crores are finalised with the approval of the Department of Supply. Related functions like timely payment, shipment and clearance of stores are also looked after by the Department. It is also concerned with ensuring timely testing and evaluation of materials, products and equipment and it is increasingly associated with the quality improvement/control measures. It also manages Cadre of 2 Group 'A' Services, viz., Indian Supply Service and Indian Inspection Services. It also administers scientific officers and other staff required for the chain of National Test Houses. The Department of Supply have been carrying out its functions effectively through the attached offices of DGS & D, Office of Chief Controller of Accounts and National Test House. The officers and staff of the Department are engaged in the above functions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Dues Against NTC

4514. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment of rupees 21 crore is to be made by the National Textiles Corporation to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said payment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) As on 31.7.96, an amount of Rs. 19.51 crores is payable by NTC (M.P.) Ltd. to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board.

(b) Due to acute shortage of working capital and the losses suffered by NTC, the NTC has not been able to pay these dues. Government have approved a Revised Turn Around Plan for NTC including the mills under NTC (M.P.) Ltd. The Revised Turn Around Plan has been placed before the BIFR for its approval. The implementation of the plan is expected to make NTC mills viable. NTC is expected to be able to clear these dues on implementation of the Revised Turn Around Plan.

[English]

Development of Handicrafts in U.P.

4515. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation has sought assistance for implementation of schemes for development of handicrafts like woodcraft, items made of copper and brass, hand dying, carpet and saree weaving and pottery in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). The Uttar Pradesh Export corporation, Kanpur (the nodal organisation for the development of handicrafts in the State) has sought assistance in various crafts for implementation in the state for development of handicrafts. The details of assistance provided by the Government to the corporation during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the scheme	Amount Released 1995-96	1996-97 upto Aug. 96
1.	Exhibition	8.68	1.80
2.	Renovation of emporia	2.50	1.79
3.	Setting up of Craft Development Centre.	1.88	1.94
4.	Setting up of carpet training and common facility centre.	-	25.00
5.	Design Development	-	3.00
6.	Training in various crafts.	-	2.46

Opening of R.R.Bs

4516. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of the Regional Rural Banks, State-wise with particular reference to Assam;

(b) whether the Union Government have received some proposals for setting up of the branches of Regional Rural Banks in the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these